

REMARKS

The indication that this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters is acknowledged.

With respect to the informality in claim 1, by the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the feature referred to by the Examiner and now recites a first branch means for guiding the recording medium to be subjected to double face printing from the conveying path for the discharge tray onto the bypass conveying path. Accordingly, applicants submit that by such amendment, the informality in claim 1 should now be overcome.

With respect to the informality concerning improper multiple dependent claims, by the present amendment, claims 4 - 13 have been amended, where appropriate, to change the dependency to proper multiple dependent form or single dependent form and applicants submit that the informalities in such claims should now be overcome.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants submit that the informalities noted by the Examiner have been overcome and issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli,

Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 500.43317X00),
and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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